Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele Room
Holmes
Gandy

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FBI, Secret Service Need Study

By Drew Pearson

There are three Government agencies that are accountable, as far as congressional investigation or criticism is concerned: the FBI, the Secret Service and the Central Intelligence Agency. In the interest of protecting the life of the President, however, it is my belief that a rigorous investigation of the first two should be undertaken.

Pearson

Here are some facts that should be investigated:

The Secret Service—Six Secret Service men charged with protecting the President were in the Fort Worth Press Club early in the morning of Friday, Nov. 22, some of them until nearly 3 a.m. This was the day that President Kennedy was assassinated. They were drinking. When they departed, three were reported en route to an all-night beatnik rendezvous, "The Cellar."

The Secret Service, which has done a notably good job in the past, prides itself on having men who will give their lives for the President. They are charged with throwing their own bodies in front of the President in case of attack.

For the sake of maintaining this splendid reputation, the Secret Service should discipline the six men, lest they bring reflection on the organization. Additionally, it could make known what, if any, it proposes to do to the bartender who served them.

Other people who have been drinking until nearly 3 a.m. are in no condition to be trusted with guns in the best physical shape to protect anyone.

It has been stated that it was an impossibility for the Secret Service to check the occupancy of every building along the route. While this is true it is also true that warehouse-type buildings, such as that in which the assassin hid, should be searched, and the extra time spent by Secret Service men at the Fort Worth Press Club could have been spent in doing so.

Fort Worth Press Club

What happened at Fort Worth was that the Press Club, which is supposed to close at 10 p.m. under local liquor laws, split word inviting Vice President Johnson and Gov. Connally, both honorary members, to come over, and on that excuse stayed open after hours. Neither Johnson nor Connally accepted the invitation but the Club stayed open anyway.

When I asked Calvin Sutton, president of the Club, he explained that "A lot of big shots were in town whom we had heard about but never seen in person, so we took the liberty of staying open. We wouldn't have done it, but we did."

[illegible] our exposure [illegible] guest [illegible] and it [illegible] surprised me when they arrived, but they all had guest cards. They got in about 11 or a little later."

Sutton said it was 3 a.m. when he locked up and the Secret Service men left ahead of him.

"They wanted to know where 'The Cellar' was, and I told them. But I did my best to discourage them. I don't know whether they went or not."

Sutton said they seemed to be in pretty good shape when they left.

File of Suspects

The FBI—In Dallas, police stated that the FBI had interviewed Lee Oswald but had not informed them about the interview. In Washington, the FBI denied they had interrogated Oswald recently.

Whether he was interviewed recently or a long time ago, it is the job of the protective agencies of government to check on each suspect in any city the President visits and to make sure where he is at the time of the visit.

A man who had been head of a Fair Play for Cuba Committee, who had professed Marxism, and whose record showed a mixed-up, unsteady emotionalism, should have been kept under careful watch on the day the President entered his city—one of the most lawless and intolerant cities in the United States.

The Secret Service keeps a file of people who have written threatening letters to the President or who are otherwise suspect. If Oswald was not on their list, the FBI should have communicated with the Secret Service after they interviewed him. Since

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photographs of Oswald passing out pro-Castro leaflets were shown on television the FBI and the Secret Service should have been able to take him without too much trouble.

It's true that there has been bad feeling, jealousy between the FBI and the Secret Service. Sometimes they act almost as if they don't speak. But they should stop squabbling over jurisdiction and headlines at least where the life of the President is concerned.

[illegible] I was in [illegible] on the day Presidents Kennedy was shot I was [illegible] and [illegible] it is inconceivable that the police did not know [illegible]

[illegible] had to show really straight to us [illegible] police [illegible] the basement. It was quite difficult to get [illegible] white House. [illegible] a police [illegible]

[illegible] and [illegible] this was the kind of [illegible] allowed in police headquarters when the most important defendant in Texas history is being transferred. How this happened may never be explained by the police. But a bipartisan Congressional committee should probe to the bottom.